



## Commissioner of Education General Information

April 10, 2013

Overview of the Nebraska Department of Education. The Nebraska Department of Education (NDE) is a constitutional agency that operates under the authority of an [elected nonpartisan board of education](#). The agency carries out its duties on behalf of Nebraska students in public, private, and nonpublic school systems. The staff of NDE interacts with schools and institutions of higher education to develop, coordinate, and improve educational programs. Click on the following link for [NDE's mission, vision and values](#).

Role of the Commissioner. The Commissioner of Education reports directly to the State Board of Education. The Commissioner serves the state as: (1) a Constitutional Officer; (2) an Executive Officer of the State Board of Education; and 3) the administrative head of the Nebraska Department of Education. The Commissioner provides strategic leadership and management of the agency's resources including oversight of an annual operating budget of approximately \$1.5 billion.

The Commissioner works closely with NDE's senior administrators and oversees approximately 500 employees working in four functional areas including: (1) leadership and support for Nebraska's system of early childhood, primary, secondary and postsecondary education; (2) assistance to people with disabilities to join or re-join the workforce [Vocational Rehabilitation], (3) adjudication of claims for disability benefits under Social Security or Supplemental Security Income [Disability Determination Section]; and (4) agency administrative services such as finance, human resources, and legal. Click here to access [NDE's organizational structure](#).

Outside of the agency, the Commissioner works closely with Nebraska's Governor, members of the legislature, and education stakeholder groups across the state. The Commissioner serves on a variety of education-related state commissions, committees, boards and task forces representing the State Board and NDE.

The Commissioner's job responsibilities include five major areas:

- 1) Provides leadership for the State Board of Education and supports the policy leadership role of the State Board;
- 2) Plans and allocates the resources of the Department necessary to accomplish Board goals, priorities and actions;
- 3) Leads the Department and the state school system;
- 4) Plans, allocates, and contracts for the resources of the Department to support the goals and priorities of the Board and the Department, and the directives of the Legislature; and,
- 5) Participates in professional growth activities, regular performance reviews and appraisals by the Board, and development of plans for performance improvement.